



Senate Energy & Telecomm. Comm.
Exhibit No. 11
Date 3-17-2009
Bill No. HB 584

Senator Jerry Black, Chairman
Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee
Montana State Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620, 0500

Dear Senator Black,

I am writing in support of HB 584: The Voluntary Wind Siting Program. Sagebrush Energy is developing several 20-60 MW wind projects in Montana. We have meteorological equipment installed in three Montana counties are in the process of finalizing negotiations for the sale of power from our Norris Hill Wind Project in Madison County.

In December, Janet Ellis contacted me about this proposed bill and I worked with her through several rounds of edits to help draft the bill that you see before you. We had some initial concerns with the legislation, but are happy with the final outcome and believe that this is a solid first step in establishing a voluntary program.

We support HB 584 for two primary reasons:

1. **It is voluntary and preliminary:** The bill sets up only the process for establishing a voluntary siting program, the legislature must still approve the final rules of the committee.
2. **We need rules:** This bill is a first step in establishing a transparent public process for the site evaluation of wind project effects on environmental resources, as well as turbine placement to minimize visual effects on neighbors.

If you have any questions about our projects, or our support of the bill, please be in touch.

Sincerely,

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